

Heart of Darkness

by Joseph Conrad

Pre-Reading Vocabulary Practice

Optional Post-Reading Quiz Included

Contents & Printing Notes

Unlike our most popular resources, this one's auto-selected.
Review before use, or edit the DOCX via "View / Print / Edit Web
Quiz" on the Resources menu.

PRE-READING ACTIVITY

Answer Key — Preview	2	teacher use / self-check only
Vocabulary Preview	3	

OPTIONAL POST-READING QUIZ

Vocabulary in Context	5	
Answer Key — In Context	7	teacher use only

Pages are ordered for double-sided printing.

About the Pre-Reading Activity

Open-dictionary; ungraded or completion grade. Students preview 20 words from the upcoming reading, each in a sentence that supports understanding. They choose the best meaning from 3 choices.

About the Optional Post-Reading Quiz

Use after reading, or skip. The same words appear in excerpts from the text.

Practice words: adieu, allude, appalling, bronze (2), congenial, desolate (2), eloquent, farce, however (2), infernal, languid, obscure (2), ominous, primeval, profound, scoundrel



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ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary Preview

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#	KEY
1	A
2	B
3	B
4	C
5	A
6	A
7	B
8	A
9	A
10	B
11	A
12	A
13	A
14	B
15	B
16	A
17	A
18	B
19	A
20	A

Vocabulary Preview

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Name _____ Date _____ Period _____

Read each prompt. Then choose the best meaning for the bold word.

1. We waved **adieu** to our friends at the train station.
 - A. goodbye
 - B. hello
 - C. greetings
2. She didn't mention any names, but everyone knew she was **alluding** to the President.
 - A. being discouraging
 - B. indirectly referring
 - C. not talking
3. She has scheduled a news conference to respond to the **appalling** accusations.
 - A. false
 - B. horrible
 - C. foolish
4. She approached the impressive **bronze** doors.
 - A. made of a high-quality wood
 - B. notably large and appearing heavy
 - C. made of a type of high-quality metal
5. I saw her **bronze** hair.
 - A. reddish-brown or yellowish-brown
 - B. curly
 - C. straight
6. She found her new colleagues to be quite **congenial**, making her transition to the new job much easier.
 - A. friendly
 - B. unfamiliar
 - C. challenging
7. She felt **desolate** when her boyfriend died in a car accident.
 - A. confused
 - B. miserable
 - C. emotional
8. It is in her book of **desolate** desert photographs.
 - A. empty
 - B. bright
 - C. detailed
9. She is the most **eloquent** speaker at the school.
 - A. well-spoken
 - B. experienced
 - C. popular
10. The trial was a **farce**, with witnesses who clearly lied and a judge who didn't care.
 - A. thorough investigation
 - B. complete mockery
 - C. well-run procedure
11. I hope to take the ACT just once. However, I will take it early, so there is time to study and take it again if my scores aren't high enough.
 - A. but
 - B. also
 - C. and

12. However we get there, the main thing is to be absolutely sure we're not late.
- A. whatever way
 - B. even if in a non-standard manner
 - C. to whatever degree
13. That **infernal** alarm clock kept going off every five minutes.
- A. annoying
 - B. expensive
 - C. antique
14. She greeted us with a **languid** wave of the hand.
- A. quick and sharp
 - B. slow and relaxed
 - C. stiff and formal
15. Our view was **obscured** by the smoke.
- A. enhanced
 - B. blocked
 - C. made frightening
16. An Internet search proved she had plagiarized from an **obscure** poem written in 1920.
- A. not known to many people
 - B. well-known decades ago
 - C. kept secret
17. With the clouds looking so **ominous**, I'm afraid there will be a bad storm.
- A. threatening
 - B. huge
 - C. fast-moving
18. The area has been inhabited since **primeval** times.
- A. skillful
 - B. ancient
 - C. filled
19. It was a **profound** spiritual experience that changed her life.
- A. intense
 - B. common
 - C. traditional
20. He is the most intolerable **scoundrel** on the face of the earth.
- A. person without moral principles
 - B. apparently reasonable, but unproven
 - C. without pattern or planning

Vocabulary in Context

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Name _____ Date _____ Period _____ Score _____ / 20

Read each prompt. Then choose the best meaning for the bold word.

- 1 **However**, through this glorious affair I got my appointment, before I had fairly begun to hope for it.
A. a word used to connect contrasting ideas as when using *though, in spite of that, in contrast, nevertheless*, etc.
B. in keeping with or in agreement with what was just stated
C. therefore (for that reason)
- 2 **However** he had got much worse suddenly.
A. in whatever way
B. starts fighting
C. starts (a fire)
- 3 **Adieu**.
A. goodbye
B. hello
C. greetings
- 4 Every day the coast looked the same, as though we had not moved; but we passed various places—trading places—with names like Gran' Bassam Little Popo, names that seemed to belong to some sordid **farce** acted in front of a sinister backcloth.
A. (verb) to intentionally anger, challenge, or upset someone -- especially by mocking them or hurling insults
OR (noun) an insult or other action intended to anger, challenge, or upset someone
B. a ridiculous, exaggerated situation too absurd to be taken seriously; or a type of comedy that relies on absurd humor, using physical slapstick, unlikely situations, and deliberate misunderstandings
C. treat in a manner that demonstrates a sense of superiority, but is supposed to seem kind OR the actions of a patron (to support someone or something; or to be a customer)
- 5 It was the same kind of **ominous** voice; but these men could by no stretch of imagination be called enemies.
A. threatening of bad things to come
B. huge
C. comforting
- 6 Brought from all the recesses of the coast in all the legality of time contracts, lost in **uncongenial** surroundings, fed on unfamiliar food, they sickened, became inefficient, and were then allowed to crawl away and rest.
A. not agreeable or compatible
B. not attractive or desirable
C. related to being antisocial
- 7 One, with his chin propped on his knees, stared at nothing, in an intolerable and **appalling** manner:
A. telling someone about something
B. causing strong feelings of disapproval or horror
C. commending or praising publicly
- 8 The smell of mud, of **primeval** mud, by Jove!
A. certain
B. ancient
C. outside
- 9 A dark figure **obscured** the lighted doorway of the manager's hut, vanished, then, a second or so after, the doorway itself vanished too.
A. emphasized (called attention to something)
B. blocked the view of
C. not fit for service to humans or home life
- 10 your power of devotion, not to yourself, but to an **obscure**, back-breaking business.
A. undistinguished
B. the state of doing something unintentionally
C. the state or degree of agreeing or approving

- 11 *It was a distinct glimpse: the dug-out, four paddling savages, and the lone white man turning his back suddenly on the headquarters, on relief, on thoughts of home—perhaps; setting his face towards the depths of the wilderness, towards his empty and **desolate** station.*
- empty, lonely, providing no support
 - stop interacting; or stop having interest
 - treating thoughtlessly or without respect
- 12 *the sound of her low voice seemed to have the accompaniment of all the other sounds, full of mystery, **desolation**, and sorrow, I had ever heard*
- the state or degree of being able to be taken on as one's own
 - extreme sorrow and loneliness
 - not trustworthy with secrets, and/or conspicuous or obtrusive
- 13 *The half-caste, who, as far as I could see, had conducted a difficult trip with great prudence and pluck, was invariably alluded to as 'that **scoundrel**.'*
- someone without moral principles
 - the condition of being different
 - important, serious, or dangerous
- 14 *...to the hidden evil, to the **profound** darkness of its heart.*
- intense
 - without a tendency to be full of thought
 - lacking a tendency to be full of thought
- 15 *What we afterwards **alluded** to as an attack was really an attempt at repulse.*
- marked important text
 - indirectly referenced
 - gained advantage from
- 16 *the **languid** beat of the stern-wheel came plainly to my ears.*
- mental activity of which one is self-aware
 - slowly moving
 - without involvement of anything in between
- 17 *This was the unbounded power of **eloquence**--of words--of burning noble words.*
- powerful use of language
 - lowering moral standards
 - changing or not reliable
- 18 *It was as though an animated image of death carved out of old ivory had been shaking its hand with menaces at a motionless crowd of men made of dark and glittering **bronze**.*
- examine in detail to better understand
 - appropriate in size, amount, or degree
 - a brownish metal
- 19 *When next day we left at noon, the crowd, of whose presence behind the curtain of trees I had been acutely conscious all the time, flowed out of the woods again, filled the clearing, covered the slope with a mass of naked, breathing, quivering, **bronze** bodies.*
- suntanned
 - view in a certain way so as to form a belief or opinion
 - not feeling or showing sympathy for another's suffering
- 20 *I lived in an **infernal** mess of rust, filings, nuts, bolts, spanners, hammers, ratchet-drills—things I abominate, because I don't get on with them.*
- very bad; or very annoying; or characteristic of hell or the underworld
 - relating to classical music plays in which most of the dialogue is sung
 - strict, firm, or hard (not giving in, not giving way, or not giving up)

ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary in Context

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#	KEY	WORD	NOTE
1	A	however (<i>as in: However, complications may...</i>)	High-utility academic word; 2 meanings in this book.
2	A	however (<i>as in: However you do it, get it done!</i>)	2 meanings in this book.
3	A	adieu	Used 3 times in this book.
4	B	farce	Used 3 times in this book.
5	A	ominous	Used 8 times in this book.
6	A	congenial	Used 2 times in this book.
7	B	appalling	Used 8 times in this book.
8	B	primeval	Used 3 times in this book.
9	B	obscure (<i>as in: it obscured my view</i>)	High-utility academic word; 2 meanings in this book.
10	A	obscure (<i>as in: the famous and the obscure</i>)	2 meanings in this book.
11	A	desolate (<i>as in: a desolate place</i>)	High-utility academic word; 2 meanings in this book.
12	B	desolate (<i>as in: felt desolate</i>)	High-utility academic word; 2 meanings in this book.
13	A	scoundrel	Used 3 times in this book.
14	A	profound (<i>as in: profound sadness</i>)	Used 11 times in this book.
15	B	allude	High-utility academic word; used 5 times in this book.
16	B	languid	Used 6 times in this book.
17	A	eloquent	Used 9 times in this book.
18	C	bronze (<i>as in: bronze won't corrode in salt water</i>)	2 meanings in this book.
19	A	bronze (<i>as in: a bronze tan</i>)	Used 3 times in this book; 2 meanings in this book.
20	A	infernal	Used 3 times in this book.